The Indian Poultry Gazette.

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EDITORIAL NEWS.

Having moved to Darjeeling, we are better able to concentrate upon poultry matters. With the recent hot spell in Calcutta work was a tedious job. In fact, we could not keep our promise and get the new Year Book circulated. The latest from the press, is that it will be ready for issue along with the Gazette. This is the first attempt in India to publish a larger Poultry Year Book, and though there are not as many pages to read compared with our English contempories, we think the reading matter every bit as useful. The coming years will see the fruitation of our small attempt.

We hear that Mrs. Fawkes (Ansell) has sailed for England to be present at the World's Poultry Congress to be held at the Crystal Palace in July. Every reader will wish her every success in putting forward our cause for the benefit of India. Owing to unforseen circumstances it has not been possible for the Club to put up any birds to be on view, but we are assured that India will be well represented in the Indian Court by an enterprising Indian.

The article by "Wayfarer" in this issue is well worth studying, as without a doubt the crow is, to a large extent, responsible for many diseases in this country. We recently saw the result of a kind of poisoning resulting from a kite dropping a piece of fish in a pen of beautiful R. I. Reds. The few birds that were saved have a peculiar twist of the neck, and we should be pleased to hear from any reader a treatment for the cure of this.

Whilst writing on this subject, would readers kindly send along reports as to the many diseases met with, to aid the novice poultry-keeper. He it is who is bewildered when he sees his birds die without the slightest indication of disease. How often do we hear of new fanciers giving up in dispair owing to having lost all by disease, when, had a timely report been sent along, our expert could have helped. A little forethought on your part may be the means of saving hundreds of our feathered friends.

From various sources we hear good reports as to rearing this season. May we anticipate a much longer entry in next season's shows? Now is the time to concentrate on the winners. Given good stock, rearable chickens, good feeding and environment, there is no reason why we should not all be able to improve our class of poultry.

Most poultry-keepers on the plains will have finished their breeding season, and it would be well to separate the males and give the hens a rest whilst the hot weather is here. Both sides will feel the benefit of the rest, and be in better fettle later on. Those fortunate poultrymen in the hills will be just starting with their hatches, and have no worry over the heat. Chickens reared now should do well and be heard of later on.

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WANTED:—MORE POULTRY-KEEPERS.

(By "Progress").

The fact that Great Britian imports many million pounds' worth of eggs and dead poultry annually has been mentioned so often that it will he amazing if the reader has hitherto been unaware that such a state of things exist. Nevertheless, it does exist, and if by reiterating the statement we can induce more enterprising people in India to undertake poultry keeping and take advantage of this ready-made market of over £15,000,000 waiting for them to share, then its repetition will have been more than worth while.

A feature which militates against India in the production of poultry products is the need of large local markets. If the production of eggs can be increased in India during the period of the year when they are scarce in Europe as to induce the establishment of an export trade, it should follow that collection would then be economically possible since the quantities required by the Overseas markets should practically overcome the difficulties of collection which are economically impossible when small quantities only are available. It is therefore evident, that those who care to turn their attention to poultry culture, either on a supplementary or whole time basis, have a particularly good market for their produce; the demand for poultry products being of ever-increasing dimensions, which, for many years to come, will be far excess of the supply.

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The Secretary of the South Indian Poultry Association writes that their Annual Show will be held at the Government Botanic Gardens, Ootacamund on the 8th May 1930 under the kind patronage of H. E. The Governor of Madras. The closing date for entries for the poultry section is 29th April. Will fanciers in the South please make a note of this and give the show every support. The address of the Secretary is:—Hon. Secretary, S. I. P. A., Aruvankadu, Nilgiris.

Will readers please note our change of address to: Carmichael Court, Darjeeling, and address all correspondence as such.

Given a free hand, there is practically no limit to the possibilities of egg production in India, while the industry will, at the same time, solve the present problem of un-employment among many classes of the community during a greater portion of the year.

Hitherto poultry keeping in India has for many years been practised by a few poultry-keepers of a go-ahead character, and these men have added considerably to their incomes by the attention they have given to this branch of industry. Thus far, however, they have not been able to supply the demand which exists in India for high-class poultry, and, as a consequence many thousands of rupees leave India annually for importations from other countries.

Now, there is absolutely no reason whatever why this large sum of money should not be kept within the country. Nay, more, why should not India supply sufficient stock for her own requirements, and in addition export a considerable surplus, as do other Colonies?

To-day, many millions of pounds are being paid by Great Britian to Denmark, Sweden, France and even to China for poultry products. Why shou d not these millions, or a greater part of them, be kept within the British Empire?

The Governments of Canada, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa have done much in this direction, and are successfully competing with nearer countries in the great markets of Britain. It is still left for India to do her part in securing a share of these millions. Many learned and discursive treatises have from time to time been written on poultry culture and the nett result of these had been to discourage beginners and prevent the development of the poultry industry rather than to encourage and increase it. People, generally, have a "horror" of scientific descriptions, analyses and learned descriptions and disquisitions on poultry feeding and management. Few have either the time or patience to investigate these matters for themselves, and consequently are "frightened" off poultry keeping instead of being encouraged to test its profit-making possibilities.

Practical experience, extending over a number of years, has fully convinced the writer that poultry keeping carried out on commonsense lines can be made a most remunerative undertaking, either as a whole, or part, of the usual farm routine work.

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With poultry, in so far as it is on a supplementary basis, the two main factors are: (1) that a vast increase in the number of poultry and in poultry produce, can be secured in India without interference with any existing crop, or displacement of any other class of stock; (2) that poultry can be kept profitably by almost every class of the community, whether these be land-owners, villagers, or dwellers in the suburbs of towns and cities. In addition, there are openings for what is termed egg-farming of the greatest promise to those with capital and experience.

There is no class of live stock that will give the same return for the money invested and the risk involved than the bred-to-lay pure breeds of poultry. Poultry keeping in India has its own special disadvantages and difficulties to contend with even as it has its advantages. The soil and climate are splendidly adapted for egg-production in most provinces and states, and also for the growth of table poultry, there being no extreme cold to contend with, whilst ice and snow are practically unknown. On the other hand it has great heat and torrential rains, each of which bring its own peculiar troubles to the poultry-keeper. For instance, the heat necessitates extra special care in breeding, feeding and management otherwise the stock will degenerate, thus calling for frequent importations from England. This, however need not deter breeders in India from considering the question of supplying other markets than their own, for the simple reason that such great poultry breeding countries as Denmark and Sweden have also found it necessary to keep up the excellence of their breeding stock by periodic importations from England.

Thus far, the majority of the people of India have not taken the interest in poultry culture that they should have done, possibly because they seem to be imbued with the idea, the old-fashioned idea, that poultry are not a paying preposition and that poultry cannot be kept satisfactorily without a lot of preliminary scientific study. This is quite a fallacy. Not that science has not done a lot for the poultry industry, it has, chiefly in the direction of disease research, and concerning the constituents of foods and correct balancing of rations. Yet, where the vast majority are concerned as poultry-keepers, we would back practical, common-sense to get the best results every time.

POULTRY EPIDEMICS.

By "Wayfarer".

Many and various are the enemies of our fowls, from the neighbour next door, his children, his servants and his dog, right through the list to the very sparrows. I sometimes think that sufficient care is not exercised in checking our bird enemies.

The sparrow, with the calm aggrevating insolence of the town gamin pilfers their grain, and possibly, makes faces at the hens while he robs them, thus adding insult to injury. I have a weak spot for him, he is so cheekily friendly, and he takes, not as a thief, but as his right his little toll.

The smaller hawk sparrow, kestrel and their brethren come with a swooping whirr of wings and lift a chick now and then, but their daring and fierce resolution helps to mitigate the pain of a lost chick, though it is none the less aggrevating, yet they are things of beauty, and by killing other enemies of our fowls, mice, young rats and such like, they help as well as hinder the chicking rearing.

The kite may do a bit of scavengering round the bazar, but when he takes to grabbing chicks he is a pest, and a severe one too, for his eyes are everywhere, and out from the blue he comes and away goes the best chick of the batch, for it is the strong and hardy chick that is the most venturesome, and it will stray away from the mother in search of insects and such oddments; and when the kite swoops down it is the one who knows of it first by three seconds, till the iron claws are in its heart. Such air raids as the kite makes can be countered with shrapnel in the form of a charge of No. 4 shot from a shot gun, and he is an easy mark, greed makes him careless, nor has he much cunning.

The crow is everywhere that man makes his habitation, and only in the quiet wilds where no man dwells is a crow-less country to be found. Our other feathered enemies may have some redeeming virtue, if it be but a single one, but the crow have never a one that I have been able to discover.

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Dressed in the black of respectability it is utterly without shame, and has the cunning of a card sharper, with the ferocity of a race course gangster. Its thefts and insolence always extend to the limits of your tolerance and like the vagabond he is, he knows exactly how far that will extend.

He worries your fowls, he steals their food and he kills, when he safely can your chickens, and with his swaggering swashbucklerism makes himself a pest to every other living thing around him.

So much for his character and manners, and one would think the list would be the very limit, but not so, for I have a theory that an even blacker crime should be laid at his already blackened door, a crime so great that his entire extermination could only be a fitting punishment.

This Ranikhet disease has ruined hundreds of poultry owners, and even the germ-hardened Desi has secumbed to it. Who is the culprit that has brought this plague upon us?

I noticed that in a town about twenty miles from here, that a correspondent to the daily paper noted that the crows were dying of a mysterious disease; seemed to grow giddy and fell from the trees and died, and the next thing I noticed, though the paper made no mention of it, was that the fowls began to die also of a mysterious disease

As usual, the crows, though many died, did not appear to greatly decrease in number, but the hens did to a paralysing extent. Then it came here, my own bits of fowls were kept afar from any other fowls, in fact never even saw strangers, yet this disease came and slew them, and I am left lamenting. Near to my house is a Hindu temple surrounded by lofty trees in which many crows roost and have their being, and like the insolent villains they are, would come to my place to see what they could steal and what harmless being they could torment. I dispersed them as often as I could but with the cunning of their kind they persisted.

Some months ago I noticed that the local *chokras* were enjoying themselves greatly in catching crippled crows nearby this temple, hunting them from tree to tree outside the temple grounds, till they fell to the ground. I reckoned without my host, for there came this disease, and my good fowls died till only half a dozen Desi hens, kept as hatchers, were left.

I have a friend who manages a tea estate seven miles from here in a crowless paradise; and though all the people in this town have suffered in their fowls, his are quite well and no trace of this plague has appeared.

My theory is that the thrice accursed crow is the carrier of the disease, and he with his natural depravity has passed it on to the poor hen and has ruined us all. It is but a theory of mine that he is carrier, but I think the speed with which it spreads and its deadliness, argues a carrier other than the hen herself.

Almost every bacillus is strengthened by a change of hosts; for instance the bacillus of cow pox which is used as an injection against small pox does, after a certain number of transmissions from cow to cow lose its strength, upon which the bacillus expert takes a dose of weakened serum from the cow and injects it into a rabbit, and from that rabbit a serum of the original strength is obtained.

The rabbit remains quite healthy and when recovered from the fever brought on by the inoculation is just as well, and will breed as freely and enjoy life just as much as any other animal of its kind. Great care is exercised that before the injection of the serum that the rabbit is in perfect health, otherwise the fever would destroy it.

May it not be thus with our black-coated enemy, those who were weak died or were crippled by this disease, and the strong though they carried the disease broadcast survived.

This Ranikhet disease exterminated the higher bred birds wherever it came, and the Desi suffered less because the Desi, from generations of germ exposure had grown largely germ proof, but they suffered too as the lengthened faces of the local people show, and the price of eggs is a certain indication of a grave shortage of hens locally.

Is it possible that no crows—no Ranikhet disease?

MAXIMUM EGG PRODUCTION.

(*By Poultryman.*)

How to secure Better and Bigger Eggs and more of them.

While it is generally admitted in this country that poultry keeping is a most interesting hobby, few seem to have realised its profitable side. That it can be made profitable, opinions to the contrary notwithstanding, there is no shadow of doubt, for statistics show that in other countries poultry keeping as a business is carried on with complete success.

Provided that the stock has been selected with egg production in view, there is little likelihood that the beginner will have reason to be disappointed with the egg yield during the normal laying months ; but unless special measures are taken the approach of the cold season must find an appreciable decrease in the output. While the causes are purely natural, they can, by proper treatment, be overcome, and a constant supply of eggs secured.

It can be stated at the outset that the factors responsible for the decrease are (*a*) the direct or indirect effect of cold, (*b*) the moult and its attendant effects, and (*c*) unsuitable environment.

An examination of the action of each individually will enable the soundness of the counter measures advised to be better understood.

Cold has a two-fold effect. In the first place it makes necessary a greater quantity of nourishment to maintain normal bodily warmth. In the second place the hen's natural aversion to walking over cold and damp earth is responsible for lack of exercise, which induces an unhealthy condition of the internal organs, especially those intimately concerned in egg production, and unfits them for the proper performance of their functions.

The moult—Although a purely natural condition, and nature's method of ensuring sufficient protection against cold—under the present more or less artificial conditions entails a very considerable drain on the vitality of the hen, food elements which normally would go to the formation of eggs are diverted to the making of new feathers.

Environment—The problem of suitable environment is to create, in so far as possible, ideal artificial conditions by making or producing an environment which approaches in a great measure the natural conditions of spring which is the natural laying season of the hen. This objective involves careful and continious study of the birds and their needs.

All these factors—which, in combination, are the causes of adwindling output—may be fully counteracted. The solution of the problem lies in the provision of proper exercise, hygiene and diet.

Exercise should be induced by some such expedient as burying the grain in deep litter on the floor of the house. This promotes scratching. Similarly a portion of a cabbage suspended about two feet from the ground will tempt the birds to peck at it as it swings. Other equally simple and effective means of prompting exercise can be improvised. The actual amount of exercise necessary must be determined largely by the judgment of the feeder, and by the flesh condition of the birds. Keep them plump—neither thin nor excessively fat.

Hygiene—A healthy condition of the birds must be insured by keeping everything about the poultry house sanitary. The breaking out of colds of a roupy nature in a pen of birds will immediately cut down the egg supply perceptibly, in some cases more than half, and it will be a number of weeks before the condition is remedied, and the birds are back to their normal production.

Diet.—A more complex problem—will be gone into at some length in the following paragraphs, but before doing so reference must be made to the use of spices.

Despite the specious claims put forward on their behalf, spices do not increase egg production. Poultry opinion is veering round to common sense methods and discarding hoary superstitions. Where increased egg supply does coincide with the use of spices, it can be attributed to the unconsidered factors—the warm mash, almost invariably recommended by the vendors of Spices, and greater care and regularity in feeding due to the adoption of test conditions. Egg production is the result of many factors, one of which is food, which Spices are not.

(*See on next page*).

THE SUCCESSFUL MANAGEMENT OF CHICKENS.

If it were possible to count the deaths which occur among chicks in a single season the results would be alarming. Thousands of chicks die in this country annually before they reach maturity. Can we really afford to ignore such alarming mortality amongst the chickens?

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How far at times Spicy substances assist the effective digestion of food has never been determined. In any case, however, continuance of use must mean that the influence is speedily lost, even if actual harm is not wrought. Derangement of the digestive organs follows the continued use of Spices, a statement any Veterinary Surgeon will substantiate.

Coming to the all important question of diet, it may be stated that the food of the hen during the cold season must fulfil several functions if it is to promote egg laying. It must nourish, promote bodily warmth, increase vitality, yet must not fatten. The moult must be assisted by the ample provision of feather forming elements of which may be mentioned sulphur, while the weakening after—effects must be nullified by vitalising food. Further,—and this is of paramount importance from the point of view of egg production, —nitrogenous elements must be supplied in constant and plentiful quantities, together with shell—forming materials—satisfactory egg supply is impossible if the hen's diet fails in any of these respects.

The best method of feeding which will promote prolific laying without any detrimental forcing action, and at the same time is economical in use and simple to prepare, is embodied in the combined system of scratch feed of grain in deep litter and the hopper feeding of a properly balanced dry mash. This method requires the least amount of labour consistent with the greatest efficiency, and the proper personal attention.

The provision of a properly balanced menu constitutes a diet which will ensure regular supplies of eggs—when eggs are scarce, prices are high, and a good laying hen is a 100 per cent. investment.

Some poultry-keepers boast that "a chick that dies is well rid of". Our view is that the essence of good chick-rearing is to rear the greatest number of chicks possible. There are sure to be some deaths from both natural and accidental causes, over which the rearer can have no control, but these losses need not exceed 5 per cent; but the fact does remain that a large number of these thousands of chickens which die every year are not weak at birth. Yet they die before they reach the adult stage. Why is it? One reason is that poultry-keepers are apt to forget that the chick is an artificial machine—like its mother. That is why we must learn to treat little chicks artificially. Supposing we let our very early chickens run out on range, among the long wet grass, in the hope of getting stamina. True, we should be following Dame Nature, but our losses would be very heavy. We should rear but a handful our of hundreds—which is far from the ideal of chicken-rearing. The wise poultry-keeper protects his chicks by providing dry and comfortable quarters for them, usually in artificial foster-mothers and keeps to judicious artificial methods throughout all his rearing—especially during the early stages, when chickens are so easily bowled over—however strong their parents may have been. The careless man courts disaster. The enormous number of deaths among chickens clearly proves that the poultry-keepers duty does not end when he selects robust, healthy parent stock and feeds them correctly. He puts first-class eggs in the incubator and gets first-class chickens that way, but from the time they are hatched they must be handled on sound common-sense lines.

Chicks of a tender age are very peculiar little machines. No matter how strong they are to day they may be gone to-morrow. A slight chill slows digestion and the organs cannot fight it.

Knowing that every chick is liable to one or other of many disorders ere it is three months old, and realising how very difficult it is to doctor chicks of a tender age, we must take every precaution to guard against these disorders and provide chicks with a rational system of feeding.

How little is known generally of chicken ailments and their causes. Disorders of the digestive organs are responsible for by far the most ills. Examine the crop, stomach and gizzard of a young chick and see what delicate little organs they are, and you can imagine why they so quickly get out of gear. A slight

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United Provinces Poultry Farm, Lucknow.

Our many clients will share with the Association the pride they have in announcing that at the recent All-India Show, out of eighteen exhibits entered all won awards with the exception of one pullet.

We also carried off the supreme trophy of the Viceroy's Cup with an utility exhibit "Black Australorp Cockerel" who also won four other challenge cups.

Our other wins were in R. I. Reds with a pullet bred from our Prince of Wales's Strain and the best Breeding trio challenge cup fell to our R. I. Reds.

Our Light Sussex won highest honours including challenge cup and both White and Brown eggs from the Farm went up top.

We have some attractive offers in breeding pens to sell next month, the pens that have bred the above good stock.

Chickens and eggs are now on sale also. Send for our full price list.

Apply Secretary,—

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compaction of the gizzard causes a stoppage and the food in it becomes sour. The gases given off then send poisons through the blood resulting in death from one or other of the many complications which may set in. In digestion, the blood plays a more important part than most poultry-keepers will admit. It is of the utmost importance that every means should be adopted to encourage the youngsters to exercise. Exercise maintains a healthy circulation of the blood stream and stimulates the digestion and assimilation of the food consumed, which, in turn, means healthy muscular tissue and prevents the developments of malformations, such as crooked beasts and bent toes. Faults in management promote various forms of cramp and rickets, and to avoid these distressing troubles exercise is essential, and the chicks should have the advantage of every ray of sunshine that falls. Sunshine is life, and Nature's finest tonic for all young chicks, and is specially valuable during the days of early spring.

Be careful not to overfeed. Either too much or too little is equally bad. The correct quantity of food is just as much as is eaten up greedily. A supply of fresh water should always be before the chicks, but sun-warmed water is a paradise to disease microbes, therefore death to chickens. Grit and charcoal of suitable grades should always be available to the chick. The function of the grit is to aid in digestion. Charcoal is a great purifier, toning up the system and removing many impurities.

Don't neglect sanitation. Cleanliness is most essential to health, and minimises the chances of disease.

Our climate is ever fighting the chick and the hens, and exercise increases circulation and "tones" up the system and thus helps the chick to fight its battles against disease, arming it with a "protective" weapon ere the set backs get to work.

Don't overlook green-stuff. This is live-food, containing valuable natural juices essential to health.

In conclusion, provide the chicks with clean, dry and comfortable quarters—clean food—clean water, renewed several times a day, always cleaning out the water vessels each time—and do not forget green food, grit and a dust bath; the latter is equivalent to the bath in the house that you insist upon for yourself.

There is no secret in chick rearing, just follow the above rules and prove to yourself that it is possible to rear every rearable chick to maturity.

THE AMATEUR BEGINNER.

A Solid Foundation Essential.

Those who have decided on taking up the breeding of Exhibition poultry should at least have formed some ideas as to how they intend to start. Advice and instruction are probably uncalled for, hence it is not proposed to offer either the one of the other here, but only briefly to review some aspects of the subject which at the same time may include information of value or otherwise, in proportion perhaps to the experience of the reader.

Entering this field of speculative fortune the majority do so as amateurs, little troubled with worries about the monetary point of view—a hobby must be expected to cost something. There are others who will not be content unless their hobby pays its way. Again, a third class, having reached the successful stage, make a useful additional income from their poultry. It is improbable that there are many persons to-day who would refuse to join the latter category. Given one with the necessary qualifications, his home not too far distant from the world, and his poultry properly managed, there is no reason why any breeder should run his hobby at a loss. The very fact alone of his being fotunate enough to belong to the amateur status gives him greater latitude, making his initial efforts the so much more easier in competition with those of the professionals.

The wise beginner will take things very easily at the start, gradually feeling his way and entertaining no thought of launching out on a biggish scale, until he has thoroughly found his feet. The great temptation with the novice is the desire to win prizes from the word "go"—to try at the very birth of his career to compete with the "big-uns," at the sacrifice of building up a strain, at least on rational, if not on scientific, lines. The "big" amateur is successful because it has probably taken him a number of years, and cost him a lot of money, to make him so. To try to beat these fanciers at the start, without the backing of a good plant in perfect running order, and a succession of promising youngsters coming on—in fact, without reserves behind him, the novice cannot reasonably expect to succed. The only exception is

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CELOTEX is easy to cut and apply, and weighs only 60 pounds per 100 square feet. It is supplied in boards 3 and 4 feet wide, $\frac{7}{16}$ in. thick, in various lengths from 8 to 14 feet.

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in the case of the so-called fancier who buys his way to the top of the tree, and then what pleasure has he left to him in the future, unless he be a good enough sportsman to renounce that method, saying "Enough, I am ashamed of buying my winners. I will dispose of them all, and henceforth breed my own." And if this does not actually happen, it is a fact that these buyers of high-priced, ready-made winners—let it be admitted with all thankfulness, that they are few and far between—have almost invariably as short a career as they deserve. No blame attaches to being beaten by the big guns: their admiration and respect is earned when the new-comer exhibits by a degree better and better stock, establishes a name for consistency, and slowly and surely works his way up in the prize lists with birds of his own breeding.

At the outset of his career as a breeder of exhibition stock the beginner is faced with the problem of acquiring the foundation stock suitable for his purpose. Common-sense tells him that it is folly for even the the most skilful breeder to start with stock years behind that of other breeders with whom he has to compete, therefore the novice buys as good stock as he can possibly afford. The purchase of this stock is a matter of some nicety. In the autumn, as a rule, the leading breeders dispose of their surplus birds, and this probably offers the best opportunity of acquiring reliable stock. It cannot, of course, be guaranteed that no wasters at all are to be met with from these sources, but the chances are that the stock is genuinely good; moreover, the probability is that such birds will be the result of systematic breeding, not chance-bred, ones; again, reputable breeders would not risk putting their good name in jeopardy by seeking to victimise a novice in any way, so that the beginner may in this way secure stock, excellent in themselves perhaps, but only sold because the breeder has a sufficiency of that particular breed. By commencing in this way the novice will soon be able to build up a strain of his own, fix his ideal type, and, if he so wishes it, at a later date specialize in some particular point that fascinates him, or better still in the direction that he knows his strain is weak in.

Is is only too easy to find one's self crowded out with a greater number of chickens then one has accommodation for, so that the beginner is apt to find himself over stocked with lot of growing youngsters that he most probably cannot keep. There is no better way for a beginner to gain knowledge and experience then to watch his chickens grow up; in fact, it is the only possible method of really getting to know all there is to be learned about the breed. To be forced to part with young stock that one would rather have kept a little longer, is a sorry business for any breeder at the best of times; but for a beginner it is a far more serious matter because, deprived of growing youngsters which might otherwise have been under his observation, he loses part of that trainning of the eye that is the only means of instructing him in the art of dealing with chickens in the future of knowing what to keep and what to sell.

"Dont keep fowls that do not earn their living" is one of the most important maxims in economic poultry management with regard to adult stock. It is an excellent plan to provide against an unduly expansive yard by adhering strictly to this system. Other than superior breeding stock, that are prepetent in reproducing their own superior qualities, must go. Some breeders are apt to keep a few favourite birds which have passed their productive stage, but it is sad to relate that sentiment and profitable business do not walk hand in hand. Because amateurs so largely out number the professionals they have in the past been mainly responsible for the improvement of our exhibition breeds of poultry. So, at the present time, and in the future, they must be relied on for the continuation of the work—whence poultry establishments founded on the proper lines are an undoubted bid towards progression.

NOTES and QUERIES.

(*By GEO. HOWARD, Langley, Hitchin, Herts, England*).

Egg Size.—Perhaps those poultry keepers who subscribe to one of the many English Poultry papers have noticed that managers of egg laying competitions are reporting a falling off in size of eggs laid at those competitions. This falling off in size appears to be general and not confined to any particular breed or competition.

(*See on next page*).

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ALL-INDIA POULTRY EXHIBITION, LUCKNOW, JANUARY 1930.

5 Challenge Cups, 7 Firsts, 4 Seconds, 2 Thirds, 1 V. H. C., 2 Reserve. Including I P. C. Challenge Cup for BEST R. I. RED COCKEREL and Galstaun Challenge Cup for BEST LEGHORN.

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A. E. SLATER, *Manager.*

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(*Continued from previous page*).

Then again, under the National Mark scheme of egg grading, the standard egg has to be two ounces in weight, special grade two and quarter ounces, and pullet standards one and three quarter ounces. I think I am correct in saying that for many years an egg weighing two ounces has been looked upon as the ideal size. It fits the average egg cup nicely. But, for some months there has been expressed a feeling that two ounces is just a wee bit too high for the standard egg under the National Mark Scheme. Some strong feeling on this point has been expressed from the northern countries. It has been urged that a great majority of eggs just fail to tip the two ounce mark, and it has been urged that the standard weight should be one sixteenth or one eighth below two ounces.

For the above two paragraps it would seem that size of egg is on the downward grade in the United Kingdom. It may be but I am of the opinion that if it is so it will remain so as it undoubtedly is not an economic proposition for a commercial egg farmer to produce an extra large egg. We all have our hens that lay exceptionally large eggs and we are proud of them. But, we must all admit that these favourite hens do not, as a rule, lay nearly so many eggs as those that lay round about a two ounce egg or just under. Nowadays we can all, by selection, get our hens to lay extra large eggs, especially if we can ignore all breed points as is the case when cross breeding, and we can also get our three hundred eggers. But, how many of the latter lay an egg that is anything near two ounces in weight. They are, of course, very plentiful in breeder's catalogues and advertisements, but a study of egg laying competitions to which these same breeders send their specially selected birds prove that they are few and far between. Birds laying over 250 eggs of over two ounces each in weight in twelve months are gems, notwithstanding all the much advertised 300 and over egg strains. Official tests prove this to be so. And, I am inclined to think that 300 egg birds will become more common in future, but that size of egg will suffer. This is a commercial age, and the large egg is not a paying commercial proposition.

Eye Colour in R. I. Reds.—I think that I referred to this in some recent notes. To me, eye colour in the females seems to be getting worse and a R. I. Red female with good eye coloar wants looking for nowadays. At the recent Hitchin show we had on view some of the best Reds in the country including some winners from the recent R. I. R. Club show. I handled every one of some 50 odd Reds in the utility classes and probably 30 odd in the exhibition classes, as well as about another 20 in members classes. Not a single female had real first class eye colour, and but two, or at the most three, had what one might call good eye colour. Males were nearly as bad. Yellow-reddish eye in the latter was common but not the nice bright red eye. One male had a lovely eye but was completely spoilt by his comb and his undercolour of feather was very smutty. That red eye, combind with other standard points, seems very elusive in R. I. Reds. But, perhaps I am looking for something different to what the majority call Red. Several fanciers pointed out to me birds that they said had good Red eyes, but I could not agree, while they one and all agreed that the one bird I pointed out to them had a Red eye different to what the others had. Perhaps I am colour blind, or prejudiced. We will leave it at that for the present.

Utility Judging.—At Hitchin show mentioned in the preceding para. I was given a job entirely new to me. I have acted as Show Secretary, Treasurer, Steward, Committeeman, and Judge, but for this show the Secretary asked me if I would oblige by acting as steward to the judge until his steward turned up. Now I come to think of it that elusive steward did not turn up at all. Mr. Powell Owen was the judge, for both exhibition and utility classes, and I took advantage of this opportunity of studying his methods at close quarters. Let me say right here that with one or two exceptions his choice of 1st, 2nd and 3rd were what I expected him to make, so there was little opportunity of getting an argument with him. I handled every bird, taking it from the show pen and passing it on to the judge as soon as he had placed back in the pen the bird he was examining. In exhibition, the R. I. Reds gave most trouble, the judge being unable to find a bird with sufficiently good undercolour to suit him, and when the bird had the under it failed in top. Here I disagreed with one of his placings. In the utility classes I could not agree with his placing of a white Sussex pullet last in the A. V. Sussex class. To me she failed in breed type, size and utility characteristics. This being the last class before lunch I failed to have a talk with him over the award. It seems to me however that English

(*See on next page*).

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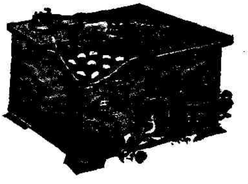

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IGATPURI G. I. P.

31-12-30.

(Continued from previous page).

judges are one and all very prone to give the benefit of any doubt (we will not say that they favour) to new varieties or breeds. An odd white or buff Sussex in a large Any Variety Sussex class is almost certain to be in the first three. Encouragement for a new breed perhaps. Some of the variety classes at this show seemed to have every variety of a breed (Leghorns had specimens of the Buff, Black, Pile, Brown, Duckwing with, of course, many Whites). One exhibition class of Heavy Breeds had in it Light Brahmas, Indian Game, Orpingtons (three varieties), Plymouth Rocks (Buff and the Barred), Faverolles, Dorking, etc., etc. And a class of this description being judged by England's noted utility judge!!! The Brahma an easy 1st with 2nd and 3rd between a Barred Rock Cockerel and Pullet. Personally should have felt inclined to toss for it as they were as near equal as possible. I noticed that occasionally the judge included in the first three a female with a crooked breast, but generally he was very severe on penalising this fault. In males he cut them dead out.

Fancy Poultry in Utility Classes.—Anent Mr. Foden's letter in the January issue of the I. P. G. in which he has a grievance against an imported trio of India Runner Ducks having to compete against two little fancy ducks (Carolina and Mandarin). May I say first of all that I do not know from whom Mr. Foden imported his ducks and therefore have no interest whatever in the particular birds. I take it that the duck class was one for *utility* as distinct from *exhibition*. If I am correct in this supposition then the grievance of Mr. Foden's is one that one often hears in England, namely, purely fancy birds with no true utility characteristics being entered in *utility* classes and being placed by the judge in the first three awards. Indian Game, Malays, Langshans, Brahmas, Cochins, and fancy bantams are a few I can call to mind as having seen entered in utility classes competing against such breeds as Leghorns, Wyandottes, R. I. Reds, Sussex, etc. To me this has always seemed absurd, but at the same time one must agree that the term "utility" is a loose one and does not merely mean, when applied to poultry, egg production and table meat. A breeder of fancy pigeons who makes, say, £100 a year from his stud may think them true *utility* as compared with a pen of the best utility Leghorns.

THE BRESSE FOWL.

By Arthur Levet.

(British United Bresse Club Judge).

The Bresse Fowl was originated in the Sixteenth Century by the Duke of Burgundy in the old French Province of Bresse, hence the name, and are supposed to be a cross between Game and Campine. Game they certainly have in them, as it is easy to see by the breast in a table Bresse and it is quite feasible that the Campine was used, as even now the Grey Bresse, which occasionally sports from the White and Black varieties has markings very similar to the Campine.

(See on next page).

If, however, the class in question was not one restricted to utility ducks, then the matter is entirely different, and a judge has much more latitude. It is fairly common to see a purely fancy duck win an exhibition duck class notwithstanding that such a duck may not have a place in the Poultry Club Standards. I could never fathom why a breed unrecognised by the Poultry Club should be permitted to take prizes at shows held under Poultry Club Rules, but such do so although they are not permitted to take any of the Poultry Club specials. Its beyond me. But at the same time these fancy ducks, poultry, pigeons, geese, etc., are an attraction at a poultry show; they help to draw the crowd which often cannot be persuaded to be interested in long rows of plain White, Red and Black fowls. They are an asset to a Show Secretary who wants to make his show a success, but my sympathies are with those placed similar to Mr. Foden. I fail to see, however, how such cases can be prevented unless show schedules make it quite clear that the Any Other Variety classes, or Any Variety classes, are confined to such breeds that have been admitted to the Poultry Club Standards. This having been done, an open class for any variety of fowl, duck, goose or turkey not admitted to Poultry Club Standards might be added to the schedule, or in fact two such classes, one for such of a purely fancy nature and the other for those possessing utility characteristics.

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2.

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(Continued from previous page).

For centuries in France the "La Bresse" as it was then called has been famous for its table qualities and "*Poulet la Bresse*" is even now the Poultry Course "par excellent" at any Epicurian Feast.

Since their introduction to the British Isles, the advent of the trapnest has done wonders to improve the laying qualities of the birds and they now fulfil all that is required as a Utility Fowl. A curious propensity of the Bresse is that the older a bird gets, the bigger egg she lays, and this till death.

They are very quick maturing in England, white Bresse cockerels at 18 weeks old have weighed 6 to 6½ lbs. plucked. Some London Hotels will only have Bresse fowls even if they have to import them from France.

That they are in the first flight as layers is instanced by the fact that a pen of 6 pullets bred and owned by Lady Burke won the Gold Medal and First prize in Section IV, any other variety (comprising of all Light Breeds except Black and White Leghorns) at the English National Egg Laying Test at Milford in 1929, and several other honours in County and lesser tests have been obtained by Bresse.

The points for a Show Specimen should have as dark an eye as possible, bold and outstanding, legs slaty blue. The Male should have an erect comb of few serrations, clean from the head at back but following the line of skull. The female comb should be erect in front and slightly over at the back but not so as to obscure the vision.

Difficult to breed, essential to score on the show bench is the "gipsy face black eye and Mulberry Comb" (by Mulberry Comb—is meant the tinge of Mulberry extending about ¼ to ½ an inch up the comb).

When typical birds of this type were first shewn in England, they were taken from the pens and sent home as unwell, until it was discovered that this propensity was an asset.

Bresse, both Black and White should have "white in Lobe" but in the blacks an all white lobe in preferrable, a tinge of red is allowed in whites.

Any one seeing Bresse for the first time would be liable to compare them to White Leghorns with dark legs, but no greater mistake can be made as the observer would find on handling the birds, they would be found to be a hard solid double "handful", all meat.

The breeds are hardy, easy to rear and are adaptable to all soils and climates.

The writer has not had the pleasure of visiting India, but understands that the staple died at the *Dak* Bungalows is Chicken? Well, if Bresse blood were introduced to the native strain, the quality of those dinners would be improved.

We would say further to this last paragraph that any blood introduced into the Dak Bungalow specimen of chicken would be an asset—Ed.

We shall be pleased to send a Specimen Copy

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INDIAN POULTRY GAZETTE.

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Absolute satisfaction guaranteed. See further Breeder's Card. See also larger displayed advertisement in Gazette Year Book. Further announcements will appear periodically in this Gazette.

2

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As your late Secretary and Editor and exporter since leaving India our reputation for square dealing is well known. But in future will export utility poultry on approval i.e. if not approved on arrival, send to Calcutta, Rangoon or All India Show for auction and if purchase price not realised we will refund difference. George Howard.

2

? ? ?

Questions under this heading are answered free of charge on this page.

Letters should be addressed—BUFF ROCK,

C/o. The Hon. Editor, I. P. GAZETTE and marked "Query".

Where readers desire an individual reply they should enclose a stamped addressed envelope and a fee of As. -/8/- is charged.

Mrs. M. *Jubblepore.*—I can get a good supply of rice meal from a local mill and would like your advice on it as a food for my poultry.—Rice flour or meal is of little value as a flesh former and should be given very sparingly as it is high in fat. It con- tains about 6 times the amount of fat in wheat and about 3½ times the amount found in maize. For use in fattening table stock it is to be recommended if made into a mash with meat meal, bran and skimmed milk. Formula,—

2 parts Rice meal, 2 parts Bran meal, 1 part Meat meal—the whole mixed to a crumbly state with skimmed milk.

Mr. K. *Bankipore.*—I have batched a lot of chicks this year from sittings got from various breeders and want a system of marking. If I use legbands I can only get about 4 colours and as the chicks grow must change them so would like to ask your advice as to toe punching, does it disqualify for showing at shows? Toe punching is the better way as by adopting a system of marks on both feet between either toe web you can make 16 different marks which will surely be sufficient for your purposes. See the holes are punched clean and near the outer edge of the web as possible without tearing it. Dont be nervous but hold the bird firmly and punch deliberately and cleanly seeing that the bird cannot wriggle its foot so that you tear the punch hole. It does not bar from showing nor does it harm a bird physically.

Mr. D. *Tinnanur.*—*R. S.* I require the proper name of a bird that has black flesh with white feathers and is largely used for medicinal purposes. In S. India it is called the Karanghozi. Can you tell me where I can purchase a pair of these birds and about what price? You are no doubt referring to the breed of fowl called the SILKY. This is a breed of fowl with purplish black flesh, beak, comb and lobes of the same colour, legs a leaden colour. There are 3 varieties, White, Black & Partridge of which the former is the most common. They are renowned mothers and sitters. I am afraid I cannot tell you of any place in India where you can get this breed as I know of nobody who keeps them nor have I seen them in our shows. Why not import a trio from England and breed from them as they would, I am sure do well in your district. I have never heard of them being used for medicinal purposes and would be pleased to know how and for what they are used for in that way.

Reader No. 232 Himutanagar Asks what should ducks be fed on, how much and also what books can be obtained on the subject. You omit to state what breed of duck you wish to keep, if to be kept for table purposes or egg production so I will give a formula suitable to the latter.

Biscuit meal	2	parts	Bran	2	parts
Maize ,,	1	part	Cooked vegetable	2	,,
Meat or fish meal	1	,,	Clean sand	½	part
Middlings	1	,,			

Should be given in a wet condition in a vessel in which the ducks can submerge their heads up to the eye. Allow 2-3 ozs per bird according to size. Feed in morning, and evening with an oz of hard grain per bird thrown into a clean drinking vessel at noon. The best books on the subject are "Ducks and Geese for profit" which may be obtained from the Library of the I. P. C. if you are a member of same.

Mr. J. *Ajmer.*—Write regarding the stoppage of laying which has happened rather sudden among his flock.—I can find little to complain at in your method of feeding Mr. J. apart from the fact that the percentage of Maize meal appears to be a bit on the fattening side also that you might include a good tonic spice to the evening feed. Don't overfeed, 2½ ozs wet mash and 2 ozs hard grain per bird with the usual green food is sufficient. Regarding the particular hen, she is no doubt resting and ere this will be in full lay again as also will the rest of the flock if what I surmise is correct. In the matter of your postscript the best results cannot be obtained from the mating you refer to. You may be raising good stock from your mating but from a 2 year hen to a cockerel you will get increased size, stamina and egg size from the offspring and you would soon notice the difference yourself if you compare with the percent mating.

Mr P. *Calcutta.*—Would like to know my opinion of a D. O. chick business being successful or otherwise out here. If you intend to despatch any long distance Mr. P I say definitely No. Conditions are different out here in that we have a different class of railway employees to deal with who 99% would not know how to take care of a chick consignment and if they did would not bother themselves so that if the poor chicks were sent off by rail or post from say Calcutta to Madars, I don't think the purchaser would get much of value by the time it got to him with our present speedly parcel system. If on the other hand you can develop a local business I see no reason why it should not providing you go in for the right class of breeder for your D. O. stock, and your district is a poultry minded district and your prices are competitive.

Mr. H. *Karachi.*—I live hear a sawmill and can obtain any amount of sawdust. I would like to know if litter composed of this would be advantageous to my birds? No Mrs. H. it would if anything be the opposite as sawdust is likely to do considerable harm to the eyes of fowls and raise large swellings in the eyes if it does not completely close them up. It also harms the respiratory organs and as it retains moisture is unhealthy. I do not advise it at all.

Mr S. *Ballygunge.*—Asks what is the best method for a novice to tell a stale egg from a fresh one? A simple method is to disolve 1 oz common salt in 1 pint of water. A fresh egg placed in this will sink to the bottom and lay a dead weight. A moderately stale egg will rise slowly to the surface and a stale one will rise at once and remain on top with as much as half the egg out of water.

BUFF ROCK.

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